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A change in the situation of a country is accompanied by a change of manners; — the elasticity of the mind is such as to accommodate itself to every station however degraded, or however exalted, in poverty

it can rest satisfied with little, in Fortune it demands and would grasp at everything.

A People who are thrown upon their own resources without the aid of foreign commerce, must live principally by Agriculture; and the effect of Agriculture is to produce a charming simplicity of mind and manner; an equality of rights and of Fortune.

That country which exists principally by its

commercial intercourse with other nations, must acquire something of their follies, and though more cultivated in mind & manner, is subject to more luxury and vice.

The causes that produce simplicity in an agricultural Nation are two fold; 1st the equality that exists among the inhabitants whose Lands and flocks are their only riches; and 2nd/ the absence of all foreign influence and corruption. Where some are elevated above

others, the many are
subservient to the want
of the few; luxury creates
and supports a variety of
trades and professions,
which in a simpler state
of manners are unknown
those who are engaged
in an agricultural life
are healthy and content
Independence produces a bold
uprightness of character,
& is an essential ingredient
in individual happiness
but when the majority
of Society are used to
cringe to the will of

Individuals, their minds become debased, their morals degraded, and for those whom Fortune has elevated to her choicest stations, in the Agricultural country, they are upright and honourable; in the commercial country, they are often mean and unworthy of confidence.

It is allowed that Literature, and that the Sciences flourish best where they receive the most encou

agement. Commercial inter-
course while it brings us the
commodities of other Nation
receives us their improve-
ments Riches ~~can~~ offers
the most generous Patron-
age to ingenious Men
the spirit of Enterprise
occasions new discoveries
Patronage and Enterprise
united will give rise to
Authors and Projectors

Aqriculture cannot
hold out splendid re-
wards - for pursuits like
these. It can dispense with
the ingenious inventions

which in the other State are necessary the book of nature offers them the sublimest objects for contemplation for reflection. domestick quiet affords little room for the ingenuity of the Historian, a simple form of Government requires no subtle disquisitions to prescribe its limits. and a plain people are willing to rest satisfied without abstruse reasoning, on subjects which cannot admit of explanation. of what use is learning where

ence but as they tend to the improvement of the happiness of Mankind, the march of mind however agreeable to human vanity often leads to error than to improvement. Few have a relish for intellectual pleasures and those enjoyments which are necessarily confined to a small part of the Community are not of so consequence compared with such as may

are common to all.

Science in the Agricultural Country is confined to the useful & Literature is plain & simple unaffected & unadorned her inhabitants are free they are brave they are virtuous. her institutions are founded on the immutable principles of Justice and every Individual has equal rights and privileges

with his fellows her
Government is Republ
lican or Verging to
Republicanism

We are about to
consider some of
the changes of man
ners and the cause
leading to them which
have taken place with
in the last fifty Yea
of this country
at the commencem
of this period we were
British Colonies restrain

in Commerce & thown
principally upon our
Agricultural resources our
right intercourse with
foreign Nations prevented
the introduction of for-
eign abuses Society was
on an easy and fa-
miliar footing. the dis-
tinctions of rank & fortune
were but slightly marked
every man was indepen-
dent and our Chieftains
like the Chieftains of

Homer were used to per-
form ~~the~~ all the most
common occupations
of life the distinctions
that existed between Man
and Man were founded
more upon character than
adventitious circumstance
the virtues the hardiness
of the People of that day
their family Union patriot-
ism were well evinced
during the course of
outrages which at last
roused the spirit of

freedom and made this an independant nation but unfortunately for us War introduced new and (till then) unheard of. corruptions, while the Army was composed solely of Americans it maintained ~~it supported~~ the character which it had supported in private life but our Allies brought with them the licentious manners of an European Camp & from that time commenced the demoralization

of this People the inter
mixture of foreign notio
prevented feelings and
habits purely American
but introduced the opin
ions the manners the
fashions of Frenchmen
People, and with each
other in paying them
attentions and the desire
of surpassing others rend
ed to every species of
extravagance & expence
the new comers who at
first beheld with admi
ration a People so un

-ple when they saw the
attempt made to equal
Europeon follies willingly
encouraged a practice
which added to their
own enjoyments. they
took every means of
binding this country
fast to french Interests
and introduced as far
as was in their power
french principles. It was
with these causes acting
together that the Peace
of 83 though it found

us free found us an
altered People. Luxu-
ries had become nec-
essaries and fortune
had begun to elect
new marks of distinc-
tion it was impossi-
ble for those who had
tasted the pleasures as
well as the dangers
of a Soldiers life to
return with alacrity to
former ~~pursuits~~ objects, the
wide field of enterprize
opened before them led

to commercial pursuits and a People who till lately had yielded to the Supremacy of another Country were called upon to Legislate & to rule for themselves with views so different with a situation so changed it is not surprising that we should have been somewhat extravagant in the exuberance of our liberty like an Heir who has just succeeded to his fortune We ran riot in extravagance and folly

experience sobered our

We again settled into something like a state of simplicity but our vices were too deeply radical to be cured they sunk somewhat before the example of our Washington but they slumbered only to awake again to crime at the expiration of his political life the reason is evident we like other Men generated crime fast enough among ourselves but foreign intercourse it is that brings us the crimes of other Nations our unexampled prosperity while it has exalted our opinions of ourselves to the most ridiculous vanity has

brought us likewise swarms
of idle inhabitants of every
climate infested with every crime
the product of human inge-
-nuity they have brought us
the luxe of french revolution-
-ary principles and have done
much towards plunging us
into a State of Anarchy of de-
-priving us of our virtue and
of undermining that only
true prop of private happiness
of public union of publick Pro-
-sperity. Religion. In spite of all
these with perhaps too large a
share of National Vanity we
are inclined to think that the
most free the most virtuous the

most enlightened Nation
in the World. we could wish
~~be~~ greater far greater share
of. these were her Lot but with
all her faults with all her
follies She is our pride our
delight in her bosom we
have been nurtured to her
good we would willingly
yield whatever is most
valuable in life

W.